WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1   1.   A check processing system, comprising:

2   an input receptacle for receiving checks, each check having a wide and a narrow

3   dimension and including field data imprinted on the check;

4   at least one output receptacle;

5   a check imager; and

6   a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle for receiving the checks

7   from the input receptacle and transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a

8   direction of transport, past the check imager to the at least one output receptacle;

9   wherein the check imager captures an image of each passing check, and wherein

10   the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted field data.

1   2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises MICR

2   data.

1   3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises numeric check

2   amount data.

1   4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises courtesy field

2   data.

1   5.   The system of claim 1 further including a memory for storing the check images.

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1   6.   The system of claim 1 further including means for electronically tagging

2   recognized field data to the check images.

1   7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises bank

2   endorsement data.

1   8.   The system of claim 1 further including an interface for outputting the check

2   images over a communications channel.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

1   10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

1   11.   The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of

2   bins.

1   12.   A check processing method, comprising:

2   receiving checks in an input receptacle, each check having a wide and a narrow

3 dimension and including field data imprinted on the check;

4   transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of

5 transport, from the input receptacle to at least one output receptacle;

6   imaging the transported checks; and

7   processing check images to recognize the imprinted field data.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises MICR data.

1   14.   The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises numeric

2 check amount data.

1   15.   The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises courtesy field

2 data.

1   16.   The method of claim 12 further including storing the check images.

1   17.   The method of claim 12 further including electronically tagging recognized field

2 data to the check images.

1   18.   The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises bank

2 endorsement data.

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1   19.   The method of claim 12 further including outputting the check images over a

2   communications channel.

1   20.   The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

1   21.   The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

1   22.   The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of

2   bins.